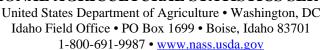


PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE





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Idaho Winter Wheat Production Down 4 Percent from Last Year

Idaho's 2006 <u>winter wheat</u> production is forecast at 63.9 million bushels, 4 percent lower than last year, but up 1 percent from the 2004 crop. Based on May 1 conditions, yield is estimated at 90.0 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from last year's record yield. Acres expected to be harvested are set at 710,000 acres, a decrease of 20,000 acres from 2005.

Idaho's May 1 <u>hay stocks</u> totaled 375,000 tons, down 30 percent from May 1, 2005. Hay production during 2005 was up 1 percent from the previous year.

Nationally, <u>winter wheat</u> production is forecast at 1.32 billion bushels, down 12 percent from 2005. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 42.4 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels per acre less than last year. Grain area totals 31.2 million acres, down 8 percent from last season.

Hard Red production is down 23 percent from a year ago to 715 million bushels. Soft Red is up 15 percent and totals 356 million bushels. White production totals 252 million bushels, down 3 percent from a year ago. Of the White production total, 21.7 million bushels are Hard White and 230 million bushels are Soft White.

<u>Hay stocks</u> totaled 21.3 million tons on May 1, 2006, down 23 percent from the previous year. The largest decreases in May 1 stocks compared with last year occurred in Texas and Missouri, where drought conditions continued through the winter and this spring.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507.

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at www.nass.usda.gov.